

Waterloo Row,
Baltimore, Maryland.
BALTIMORE CITY CO.

HABS No. MD-7

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
John H. Scarff, District Officer, -
1012 Keyser Building,
Baltimore, Maryland.

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WATERLOO ROW (Residences)
606 - 628 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland.

Owner: Various

Date of Erection: 1819

Architect: Robert Mills

Builder: Unknown

Present Condition: Some entirely disappeared
and replaced by later
structure, others greatly
altered.
None intact, all existing
in fair condition.

TORN DOWN 1970

Number of Stories: 3 stories, basement and attic

Materials of Construction: Brick, marble trimmed.
In general wood interior
construction. Wood shingle
roof.

Other Existing Records: Thomas W. Griffith's "Annals of Baltimore"
H.M. Pierce Gallagher's
"Robert Mills - 1781-1855"
Water Color of Baltimore,
Cater Collection, #181, Enoch
Pratt Free Library, Baltimore.

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In Griffith's "Annals of Baltimore", page 250, there is this statement: "Among the unproductive expenditures referred to in the year 1819, of these Annals, might have been distinguished those twelve handsome buildings, erected by Messrs. Robert Mills, John Ready, James Hines and others, on grounds leased of the Water Company, at the intersection of Calvert and Monument Streets."

In Gallagher's "Life of Robert Mills", page 95, the author states: "We have documentary proof that Mills was the Architect of the row of houses on Calvert Street, Baltimore, near Center Street, which he called "Waterloo Row", for the reason that it was completed in the month of the year of 1815 when Napoleon's final defeat was being celebrated. That these were classed as no ordinary houses is shown by the fact that one of them was occupied by the Hon. Wm. Pinckney, Minister to England, as is incidentally proved by a Baltimore newspaper of 1841, which describes an exciting burglary in the house of this diplomat during his absence at the Court of St. James. The block had a certain vogue because of its fashionable location, hence patronage, but architecturally it is not especially worthy of comment. Either the architect made an artistic failure of his design -- humanum est -- or, not improbably, he was forced to cut his garment according to his cloth."

Mr. Foster, of the Pratt Library, has this to say of the Water Color in the Caten Collection: "The Baltimore Shot Tower, stood at the southwest corner of Gay and Saratoga Streets. In the foreground directly in front of this tower, is one of Baltimore's earliest rows of block houses. This is the group of buildings still occupying the west side of Calvert Street from Center to Monument Streets, known as "Waterloo Row." The view shows the rear of these buildings, which except for changes in their street fronts have been little altered. They were erected in 1819, during a boom period, by a group of promoters headed by Robert Mills, designer of the Washington Monument, who undoubtedly was the architect. For years they were unoccupied because they were considered too distant from the business district."

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Enough identical details survive in each of the existing houses to convince a careful observer that twelve houses were built at the same time, for instance: cornice and ridge lines of the roofs, chimneys, and dormers, string courses, stairways etc. It is thought that at some later time Calvert Street was regraded and its intersection with Monument Street raised. This would perhaps account for the fact that of the twelve houses only one (#612) has the original sideways marble stoop, and iron rail. This regrading however does not seem sufficient reason to account for the fact that so many houses (three of the surviving) show changed fenestration on Calvert Street.

Each house it is thought had its stable containing privies and rear passage to the alley but the designs of the stables were not all alike. There were at least three types. One photographed (#608) is the only one unchanged. As the grade differed in the rear, the deep areas giving light to the kitchen necessarily varied from house to house. The small projection in the rear accommodating the stair to the basement is thought to be the only back building occurring originally. House #622 is now the only one with the vault under the garden. The marble mantels of the first floor differ slightly. The two south houses (#606&608) have free standing columns supporting a thin, wide mantel shelf. In the northern houses, the column is suppressed into a pilaster and the mantel projection becomes smaller. It is thought the kitchen was the rear room and the Dining Room the front room in the basement and the first floor rooms were used as parlours.

Mills designed a very similar row of eleven homes in Philadelphia, at the corner of 9th and Locust Streets, according to Gallagher, in 1809, six years before the Baltimore row was built.

John H. Scaiff

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Waterloo Row. (Residences)
606-628 North Calvert Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Number 616 North Calvert Street, Waterloo Row, now demolished was the home of William Pinkney, Ambassador to England 1797-1811 and a member of the Jay Commission. It was the birthplace of his grandson, William Pinkney Whyte, Mayor of Baltimore in the 1850's, Governor of Maryland 1872-74 and United States Senator from Maryland both before and after he was Governor. He voted against the Constitutional Amendment enfranchising the negro.

From a newspaper article published about the time of William Pinkney Whyte's death in 1908.

"Martin Van Buren was also one of the distinguished men with whom I came in contact in my early life. He came to Baltimore by stage at times to dine with friends here, and among them with my father at his home, on North Calvert street"

Notes from Baltimore Directories

- 1819- William Pinkney, esq., Gay st nr. Baltimore
- 1822- John White, merchant, dw. 8 Waterloo Row, North Calvert street
- 1824- Dr. Joseph White, proprietor of gin distillery, dw. 8 Waterloo Row
- 1831- Mrs. Ann Pinkney, 5 Waterloo Row
Joseph White, distiller, 8 Waterloo Row
- 1840- Mrs. Ann Pinkney, 5 Waterloo Row
- 1847- Mrs. Ann Pinkney, 8 Waterloo Row
- 1849- Mrs. Ann Pinkney, 172 North Calvert st., Waterloo Row
- 1851- William Pinkney, 176 North Calvert St.
Campbell P. White, atty., 15 Barnum's Buildings, Fayette St.
William Pinkney Whyte, off. Barnum's Buildings, Fayette St.
William Pinkney Whyte, dw. St. Paul street.

Mrs. Ann Pinkney, sister of Commodore John Rodgers, was the widow of William Pinkney who died in 1822.

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Campbell P. White, changed his name and was
Judge Campbell White Pinkney .

One of William Pinkney's sons was the poet
Edward C. Pinkney who probably lived in the Water-
loo Row house.

John H. Carey
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Rooms PRESERVED IN BALTIMORE MUSEUM
MANTELS " " SMITHSONIAN